



# California Veterans Board

*Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor*



Volume 1, Issue 6

## NEWSLETTER

*This edition of the newsletter will report on the accomplishments of the past two board meetings and the activities in which our members have been involved during the past two months.*



### Board Member Colin Shadell

Member Shadell is a retired Vice President of Charles Ford Co., an independent department store chain. He served as a naval aviator in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1960 being honorably discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. During his service to our country he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Medals and the Naval Commendation Medal. Currently, Member Shadell is treasurer of the Allied Council of the Chula Vista Veterans Home and serves as the Commander of American Legion Post 867 at the Home. His term began January 17, 2007 and expires January 15, 2008.



### HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 18 CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

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Oct/Dec 2007

### CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Vernon Chong  
*Chairman*

Randal J. Bressette  
*Vice Chairman*

Jake Alarid  
*Member*

Alice Astafan  
*Member*

Tom Moran  
*Member*

Colin Shadell  
*Member*

## **MEETING AT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, SACRAMENTO**

- The Board was honored to have newly appointed Wade Sanders, from the Lieutenant Governor's Office attend the meeting.
- Jake Alarid reported to the Board on the Homes Committee meeting with Deputy Veterans Home Division, Bill Parente regarding financial qualifications, day passes, felony convictions, rules of conduct, staffing and resources, and the Napa newspaper article on the upcoming audit.
- The Board voted to support the Resolution on Veterans Mandatory Healthcare Funding as submitted by Operation Firing for Effect.
- The Department reported on financial qualifications, a veteran internship program, staffing at the Homes during the holidays, number of loans going to newly returning vets, and the impact on our staffing caused by the salary increases in the Corrections system.
- The Board voted to approve the Procedure for the Scheduling of Meetings.
- A proposed meeting schedule for the 2008 Board meetings will be reviewed by Board Members and voted on at the December meeting.



## **HIGHLIGHTS OF DECEMBER 7 CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETING AT THE YOUNTVILLE VETERANS HOME**

- The Board toured the Yountville campus, visiting the new Memory Care Center and several of the resident buildings.
- J.P. Tremblay read a resolution from the Governor in honor of Pearl Harbor Day.
- The Board voted on, and approved the schedule for the 2008 Cal Vet Board Meetings as follows:
  - February 8 – Barstow Veterans Home
  - April 18 – Bakersfield
  - June 13 – Chula Vista Veterans Home
  - August 15 – San Jose
  - October 3 – Sacramento
  - December 12 - Yountville
- Dr. Chong advised that letters had been sent to President Bush and the Congress in support of the Resolution on Veterans Mandatory

## Healthcare Funding.

- John King, Deputy Secretary of the Veterans Service Division spoke to the group on the Department's agenda for homeless veterans.
- The Military Order of the Purple Heart presented a check for \$6,000 to the Yountville Veterans Home to Pearl Harbor survivor Ivan Brooks. The money will be used to purchase a detachable moving device for wheel chairs at the new member center, and the remainder will go to the general fund of Yountville.
- A representative from the State Personnel Board explained the process of Veterans Preference Points. These allow for any veteran taking an exam for a state job to receive preference points, which are added to their final score.



### ***IN MEMORIAM:***

Past Board Member William D. "Bill" Jackson passed away on November 28, 2007. Mr. Jackson served on the Board from January 2005 thru January 2006 representing the veterans homes. He was a resident of the Barstow Home and Chaired the Allied Council prior to his appointment to the Board.



### **BOARD HAPPENINGS:**

For Veterans Day events, Jake Alarid attended the celebration at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Fontana and Randal Bressette attended the Huntington Beach Veterans Day Ceremony, and the Dedication for the Veterans Services Center and Heritage Park in Los Alamitos. Members Bressette and Alarid also attended the Veterans & Armed Forces Appreciation Days at the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles.

In October, Member Bressette paid a visit to the Barstow Veterans Home where he met with the Allied Council and staff.

Chairman Chong and Member Tom Moran participated in the Vet Fund Golf Tournament at Mather Field in November. Member Astafan sponsored a deserving veteran to play in the Tournament, as she was unable to participate.



### ***SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:***

- The California Capitol Air show Scholarship Committee is awarding \$20,000 in scholarships for individuals interested in pursuing careers in aviation, aeronautics, and aerospace for the 2008-09 academic year. Applications must be submitted no later than 2/1/08. For more information on this organization and the scholarships, please visit the California Capitol Air show website at [http://web.scc.losrios.edu/airshow/stories/storyReader\\$10](http://web.scc.losrios.edu/airshow/stories/storyReader$10)



**WHAT IS A VETERAN?** *A Veteran –whether Active Duty, Retired, National Guard or Reserve is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America”, for an amount of “up to and including my life.”* Author Unknown.



The next meeting will be held on February 8 in Barstow at the Barstow Veterans Home. These meetings are open to the public – plan to attend and meet the Board, and key members of the Department of Veterans Affairs.



**MISSION STATEMENT:** *The California Veterans Board serves as an advocate for Veterans affairs identifying needs and working to ensure and enhance the rights and benefits of California veterans and their dependents.*

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Note to editors: This California Veterans Board Newsletter and previous CalVet Board informational documents are available on the Board's website at [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board) and via e-mail from [CalVetBoard@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:CalVetBoard@cdva.ca.gov).